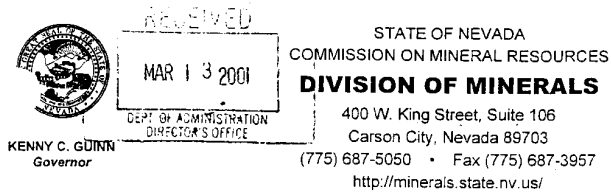


## Letter 6



Las Vegas Branch:  
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ALAN R. COYNER  
Administrator

March 9, 2001

To: Heather Elliott  
From: Doug Driesner

Re: Nevada SAI # E2001-112, DEIS for Phoenix Project

- 6-1 [ The Nevada Division of Minerals appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned project. The Division is in strong support of the preferred alternative which would allow the project to proceed.
- 6-2 [ The Phoenix Project will provide an important, long term benefit to the Battle Mountain region. It is projected that the operational life of the project will be up to 28 years followed by additional time in the reclamation phase. The project will employ between 250 to 270 people during operations. The anticipated amounts of gold, silver, and copper that will be recovered during the life of the project would be worth about \$1.5 billion if calculated at today's metal prices. This represents a significant creation of NEW wealth. In economic terms the project will be very good for Lander County and the State as a whole.
- 6-3 [ Even though the project would create additional disturbance, the reclamation included in the proposed action would leave the project area in better shape than would be the case under the no action alternative. Because no pit lakes would result under the proposed action, there is greater assurance that adverse impacts to water resources and geochemistry would not occur.
- 6-4 [ For these reasons, the Division of Minerals is in strong support of the Phoenix Project.

6-1 Comment noted.

6-2 Comment noted.

6-3 Comment noted.

6-4 Comment noted.

## Responses to Letter 6